United Nations A/65/675

General Assembly

Distr.: General
13 January 2011

Original: English

Sixty-fifth session
Agenda items 103 and 122 (u)

Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization

Letter dated 28 December 2010 from the Permanent Representatives of Australia, Canada, France, Japan and the Netherlands to the United Nations and the Chargés d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Missions of Finland and Morocco to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit herewith the joint ministerial statement in support of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, which was launched on 23 September 2010 in New York (see annex). We inform you that as of 24 November 2010, 74 countries have associated themselves with the joint statement. We would be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session, under agenda items 103 and 122 (u).

(*Signed*) Gary Francis **Quinlan**
Ambassador
Permanent Mission of Australia to the United Nations

(*Signed*) John **McNee**
Ambassador
Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Janne **Taalas**
Deputy Permanent Representative
Permanent Mission of Finland to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Gérard **Araud**
Ambassador
Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations

11-20671 (E) 260111

Please recycle

(*Signed*) Tsuneo **Nishida**
Ambassador
Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Lotfi **Bouchaara**
Deputy Permanent Representative
Permanent Mission of Morocco to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Herman **Schaper**
Ambassador
Permanent Mission of the Netherlands to the United Nations

Annex to the letter dated 28 December 2010 from the Permanent Representatives of Australia, Canada, France, Japan and the Netherlands to the United Nations and the Chargés d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Missions of Finland and Morocco to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Joint Ministerial Statement on the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

23 September 2010

New York

1. We, the Foreign Ministers who have issued this statement, reaffirm our strong support for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), which would rid the world of nuclear weapons test explosions and would contribute to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

2. In this year marking the fourteenth anniversary of the Treaty's opening for signature, we emphasize that the CTBT is a major instrument in the field of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. The Treaty was an integral part of the 1995 agreements by the States parties to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) allowing the indefinite extension of the Treaty. The 2010 NPT Review Conference reaffirmed the vital importance of the early entry into force of the CTBT as a core element of the international nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime.

3. We recall that the Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (Article XIV Conference), held in September 2009, with its unprecedented attendance at the ministerial level, adopted under the successful co-presidency of France and Morocco a declaration by consensus outlining measures consistent with international law to encourage further signature and ratification of the CTBT. The entry into force of the Treaty is vital to the broader framework of multilateral disarmament and non-proliferation. We also recall that General Assembly resolution 64/35 declared 29 August as International Day against Nuclear Tests.

4. We affirm that the CTBT will make an important contribution by constraining the development and qualitative improvements of nuclear weapons and ending the development of advanced new types of nuclear weapons, as well as preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons in all its aspects.

5. We welcome that the CTBT has achieved near universal adherence with signature by 182 States and ratification by 153 States as of today. We welcome the ratifications that have occurred since the Article XIV Conference in 2009, notably of the Marshall Islands, Trinidad and Tobago and the Central African Republic. Of the 44 States whose ratification is necessary for the entry into force of the Treaty, 9 have yet to do so.

6. We call upon all States that have not yet done so to sign and ratify the Treaty without delay, in particular those whose ratification is needed for its entry into force. While appreciating the positive development initiated in some of the annex 2 States towards ratification, we strongly encourage all the annex 2 States to ratify the Treaty as soon as possible. We recognize the extensive range of bilateral and joint

outreach efforts by signatories and ratifiers to encourage and assist States that have not yet signed and ratified the Treaty. We commit ourselves individually and together to make the Treaty a focus of attention at the highest political level and to take measures to facilitate the signature and ratification process as recommended in the 2010 NPT Review Conference 2010 Final Document. We support the efforts by the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization to facilitate such process by providing legal and technical information and advice.

7. We call upon all States to continue a moratorium on nuclear weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosions. Voluntary adherence to such a moratorium is a welcome step, but does not have the same permanent and legally binding effect as the entry into force of the Treaty. We reaffirm our commitment to the Treaty's basic obligations and call on all States to refrain from acts that would defeat the object and purpose of the Treaty pending its entry into force.

8. The nuclear tests announced by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 9 October 2006 and 25 May 2009, internationally condemned, as in Security Council resolutions 1718 (2006) and 1874 (2009), highlight the urgent need for the entry into force of the Treaty as soon as possible. Underlining the need for a peaceful solution of the nuclear issues through successful implementation of the joint statement agreed upon in the framework of the six-party talks, and recalling the importance of the full compliance with the relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolutions 1718 (2006) and 1874 (2009), we demand that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea not conduct any further tests and fulfil its commitment to the complete and verifiable abandonment of all nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programmes in accordance with the joint statement. We note that the CTBT verification regime successfully detected the aforementioned nuclear tests.

9. We welcome the progress made in building up all elements of the verification regime, which will be capable of verifying compliance with the Treaty at its entry into force. We will continue to provide the support required to complete the verification regime in the most efficient and cost-effective way. We will also promote technical cooperation to enhance verification capabilities under the CTBT.

10. In addition to its primary function, the CTBT verification regime's international monitoring system provides scientific and civil benefits for States, including for tsunami warning systems and possibly other disaster alert systems, through civil and scientific applications of waveform and radionuclide technologies and other uses of the data. We will continue to seek ways to ensure that these benefits will be broadly shared by the international community, in conformity with the Treaty.

11. We appeal to all States to make maximum efforts towards achieving the early entry into force of the CTBT. We dedicate ourselves to realizing this goal.

Algeria
Andorra
Australia
Austria
Azerbaijan
Belarus
Belgium
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Brazil
Bulgaria
Canada
Colombia
Cook Islands
Costa Rica
Croatia
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Denmark
Djibouti
Ecuador
Estonia
Finland
France
Georgia
Germany
Greece
Holy See
Hungary
Iceland
Iraq
Ireland
Italy
Japan
Kazakhstan
Liechtenstein
Luxembourg
Madagascar
Malaysia
Malta
Mexico
Montenegro
Morocco
Netherlands
New Zealand
Nicaragua
Norway
Peru
Philippines
Poland
Portugal
Republic of Korea
Republic of Moldova
Russian Federation
San Marino
Serbia
Sierra Leone
Singapore
Slovakia
Slovenia
South Africa
Spain
Sudan
Sweden
Switzerland
Thailand
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Togo
Tunisia
Turkey
Turkmenistan
United Arab Emirates
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United States of America
Viet Nam